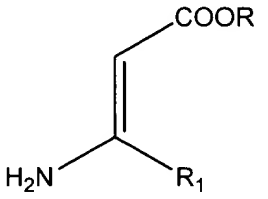
B1

26. (Amended) A process for preparing a group B streptogramin derivative according to claim 18, wherein said Y is chosen from said $=CR_3-$ groups, and said R_3 is not an alkyl group, said process comprising:

(a) reacting, for a time and under conditions sufficient to form the group B streptogramin derivative, an enamino ester of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 is chosen from R_1 of formula (I) and R is chosen from alkyl groups and residues of easily hydrolysable esters, wherein said residues are other than said alkyl groups,

with a 5 -methylenepristinamycin derivative of formula (III):

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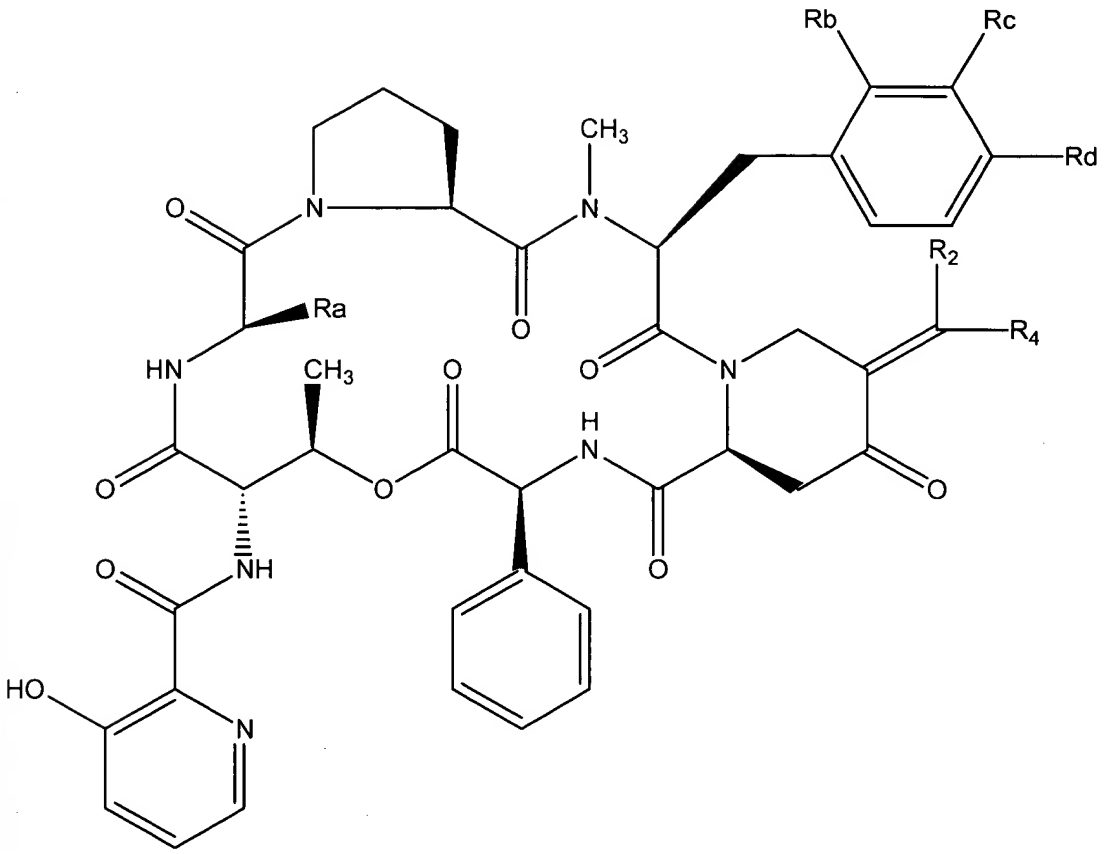

(III)

wherein

- Ra, Rb, Rc, and Rd are chosen from, respectively, Ra, Rb, Rc, and Rd of formula (I),

(i) - R_2 is chosen from R_2 of formula (I), and

- R_4 is a hydrogen atom, or

(ii) - R_2 is a hydrogen atom, and

- R4 is chosen from a hydrogen atom and dialkylamino groups,

(b) optionally, where appropriate, converting said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (a) above, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_3 is a carboxyl group,

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(c) optionally decarboxylating said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (b) above, wherein said R_3 is a carboxyl group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_3 is a hydrogen atom, or

(d) optionally converting said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (b) above, wherein said R_3 is a carboxyl group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_3 is a carbamoyl group,

E1 conclude

(e) optionally converting said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (a) or (c) above, wherein said R_1 is a hydroxymethyl group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_1 is a formyl group, and

(i) optionally converting said group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_1 is a formyl group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_1 is a carboxyl group, and

(ii) optionally converting said group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_1 is a carboxyl group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein said R_1 is chosen from alkyloxycarbonyl groups and –CONR'R" groups, and

(f) optionally mono-N-demethylating said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) above, wherein Rd is a dimethylamino group, to a group B streptogramin derivative, wherein Rd is a methylamino group, and

(g) optionally converting said group B streptogramin derivative, prepared by (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) above, to a salt.

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32. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one group B streptogramin derivative or salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein said composition further comprises at least one component chosen from (i) at least one compound chosen from group A streptogramin derivatives and salts thereof, and (ii) at least one component chosen from pharmaceutically acceptable diluents and pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants.

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